

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOCTY 6939

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3400

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PAPER ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: A) ADAMS/SPIRO TELECON

B) EC BRUSSELS 6406, NOV. 9, 1973

1. ON MAY 22 A CONTACT IN THE UK PERMREP BROUGHT US
UP TO DATE ON THE STATUS OF THE EC COMMISSION PAPER ON
MNCS (SEE REFTEL). HE SAID THAT THE EC COUNCIL ECONOMIC
WORKING GROUP HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS IN WHICH THE
PROPOSED MEASURES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY.

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THE WORKING GROUP HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION (JOSE NICOLAI

IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS) TO DEVELOP A HALF DOZEN QUESTIONS WHICH IT IS HOPED WILL BE THE BASIS OF AN EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 25. THE QUESTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMREPS, WHO WILL PUT THEM IN FINAL FORM FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE PERMREPS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK ON THE QUESTIONS AT A MEETING IN EARLY JUNE.

2. OUR CONTACT DOUBTS THAT THE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING ON JUNE 25, WILL DO MORE THAN DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF MNCS. HE SAID IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL AT THAT TIME APPROVE THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN THE EC COMMISSION PAPER ON MNCS (SEE REFTEL).

3. IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH A MISSION OFFICER, A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WORKING ON THE MNC ISSUE INSISTED THAT THE DIFFERENT MEASURES PROPOSED IN THE MNC PAPER WERE TECHNICAL MEASURES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKELY EVEN IF MNCS WERE NOT A SUBJECT OF CURRENT AND GENERAL INTEREST. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE DIRECTED MORE AT COMMUNITY CORPORATIONS, WHICH, HE CLAIMED, ACCOUNTED FOR A FAR GREATER PERCENTAGE OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE THAN US MNCS. HE REGRETTED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD BECOME "POLITICAL" AND THE MNC HEADING HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO A SERIES OF LONG STANDING COMMISSION PROPOSALS COVERING SUCH THINGS AS DOUBLE TAXATION, PROTECTION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS, HARMONIZATION OF COMPANY LAW, ETC.
GREENWALD

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